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The Charity hospital and the alumni : In  
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# THE CHARITY HOSPITAL .. AND .. THE ALUMNI.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE CHARITY HOSPITAL OF LOUISIANA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

BY

DR. JOSEPH HOLT,  
PRESIDENT.

NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 16TH, 1895.

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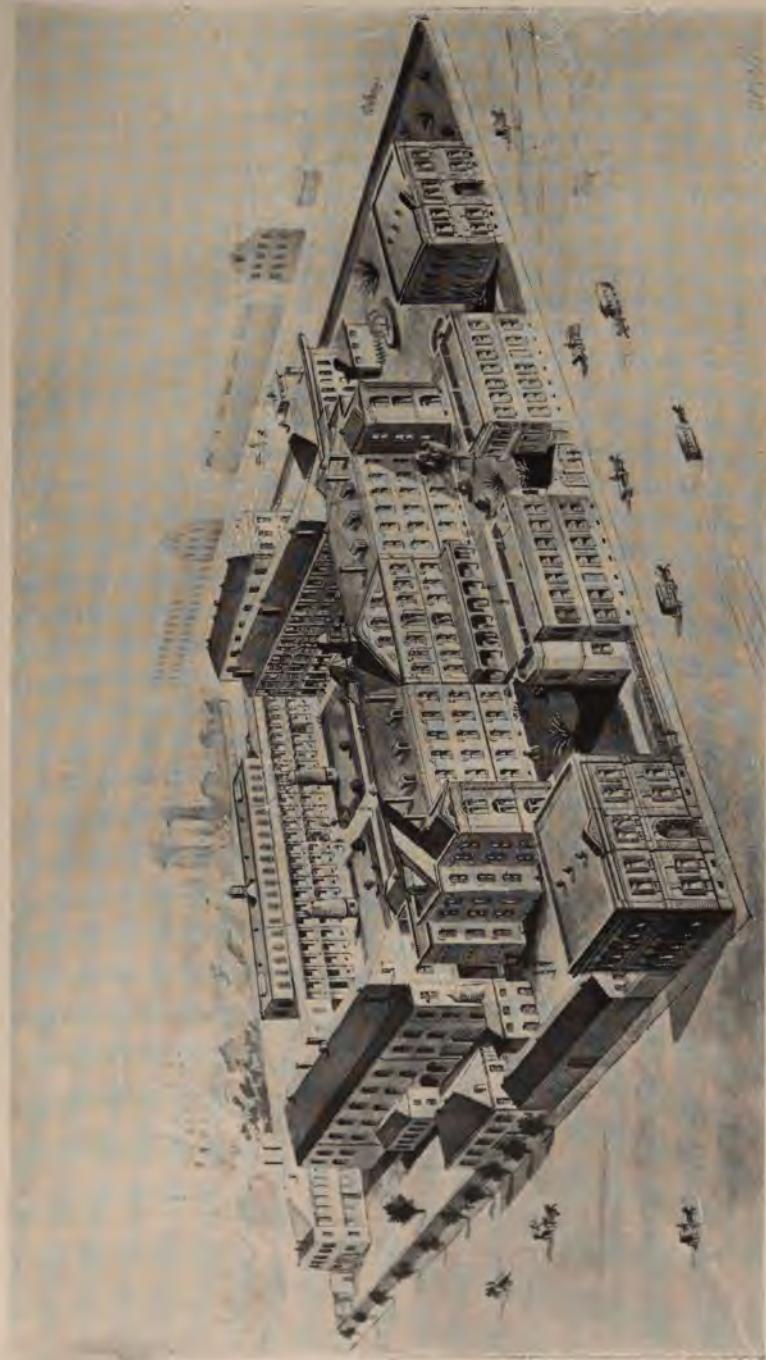
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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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### CHARITY HOSPITAL OF LOUISIANA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,

BY

DR. JOSEPH HOLT, PRESIDENT.

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NEW ORLEANS, LA., April 16th, 1895.

*Gentlemen of the Alumni*—In conducting the proceedings of our meeting it is well for us to bear in mind that our work on this occasion is inaugural and should be made by our united effort, to serve as a precedent.

The constitution of this association requires of its president an annual address. In responding to this provision, it becomes my duty to examine the creating causes and to expound the objects of the Alumni Association.

For the cultivation of good-fellowship and the advancement of medical knowledge, we have two associations attending to their duties faithfully and efficiently. These are truly elements of cohesion, and are worthy objects of our association, only incidental, however, to the moving cause—the essence of its purpose. What, then, is that purpose?

It is to consolidate into a close union a body of men, whose intellectual weight and social influence are of a commanding kind, and to consecrate this social mechanism, called the Alumni Association, to the welfare of this city and State, and to the honor and glory of the science of medicine. It is to concentrate its whole energy upon the

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enlarging, upbuilding and sustaining of the efficiency, upon the developing and utilizing of the whole working capacity of the Charity Hospital of Louisiana, pushing its standard up to date.

Whatever helps the Charity Hospital helps the people; not only of Louisiana, but of humanity at large. It is to aid that institution in the doing of a great missionary work at home, here at our own doors, as well, also, as in the sending out of trained physicians and nurses to minister to the suffering and needy abroad.

Projected upon the plane of a universal philanthropy, sincerely desiring the expansion of the science of medicine for the mitigation of human misery, the Alumni Association traces its origin to the creative causes of its progenitor, conscious of its own being as evolved from the spiritual nature which pervades the Charity Hospital as a living soul.

Having declared its origin and generalized its objects as a broad, working hypothesis, how may this association specialize its purposes in formulated lines of action, applicable in practice? First, by a comprehensive recognition of the entire scope of the functions which normally belong to the Charity Hospital.

That institution is not, as its name would seem to imply, merely a refuge for the sick. It is all of that and more; for disease and death there render tribute to science, to be returned in the mitigation of disease and the warding off of death. It carries within its complex organization the whole round of perpetuation. Its gigantic power of merciful ministration is coexistent with the evolution of the intellectual energy and trained skill necessary to accomplish the work.

It is, indeed, the great Charity Hospital. Why? Because it co-ordinates a grand philanthropy with medical education in reciprocal perpetuity, balancing waste with repair. It is like that regenerating centre—the sun—which renews its fulgence through the conservation of force, regathering in time its own expanded power, interchanging with the stars, to shine on through eternity, and not, as some would poorly have it, blazing in continual loss, cooling and narrowing by

self-contraction—prologue to the tragedy of self-extinction in the ashes of a failure. Or, like the sea, in compensatory cycle watering the land and replenished by the waters from the land, the more copiously expending, the more generously refilled; the Charity Hospital energizes and replenishes the science of medicine, to be itself energized and replenished by the science of medicine.

To deny the inseparable relation of these two mutually creating, interdependent and self-adjusting functions of the Charity Hospital—the humane and educational—is merely to acknowledge an ignorance of the life and internal economy of that institution and of the origin and outgrowth from it of medical education in Louisiana. The first five courses of lectures of what is now the medical department of Tulane University, beginning in January, 1835, as the Medical College of Louisiana, were delivered at the Charity Hospital. The history of the New Orleans School of Medicine, which began in 1856 and continued to 1869, constitutes another important chapter in the record of its educational function. The New Orleans Polyclinic, established in 1887, and now flourishing, is the latest chapter in the volume of its educational work.

The second step toward the specialization of our interest and effort in behalf of our Alma Mater is to know precisely the organic construction, the operative methods and developmental needs in the humane and in the educational elements of its dual nature, separately and correlative. By such classification we are enabled to define the field with systematic accuracy.

Studying the gross anatomy, the organic functions and developmental requirements of the first or humane division, we note matters of great importance appertaining to buildings, their remodeling and repair, the extension by purchase of adjoining property and erection of buildings, the establishment of new departments and the liberal furnishing of others—conspicuously the infectious diseases and pathological departments with ample provision for bacteriological work, if need be, in a department of its own—the machinery and apparatus in the several branches of hospital work, their modification or

replacement with improvements to date, particularly in applied electricity; the hygienic management and needed sanitary innovations; male and female training schools for nurses, and the early abolition of the economical but antiquated methods of nursing without trained nurses; also, the ancient manner of feeding and the needed introduction of dietary lists subject to the judgment of the physician.

In regard to the second, or educational element, what with the manner of selection and the discipline of resident students, externes of the out-door department, the training schools for nurses, the opportunities freely opened to the classes of the medical department of Tulane University, and the Post-Graduate School, and the freedom of access of visiting physicians and surgeons in all of the branches of general practice and the specialties, there remains small room for improvement so far as this association might suggest.

Inasmuch as this statement particularly involves the Board of Administrators and the House Staff, we may proudly cite the present administration, in point of integrity of purpose, in soundness of judgment, in the clear conception of duty, in courtesy, and the abundant display of a true progressive spirit, we may safely accept this administration as a standard of official rectitude and executive ability.

By the grace of God and a combination of fortuitous circumstances we find it so; but there is no guaranty for the future. It is simply an extraordinary exception to a rule.

Any institution of influence, handling patronage and large money, is immediately in the line of degeneracy and wretched incompetency when exposed to the ravening practices of politicos. This rule has been so uniformly demonstrated that we have been hoodwinked and insidiously lulled into the expecting of crime as a pardonable venality, where there should be the greatest show of civic virtue.

The Charity Hospital and the State Board of Health are institutions so closely involving the life and health, the industrial and commercial livelihood of the whole people; their purposes are so entirely and unselfishly devoted to the public welfare; the former is so historically endeared, and both are

so dependent upon the qualifications of temperance, the high moral character and special training of their officers, as should exalt them above the jugglery of place-hunters, seeking to be rewarded at the "public crib." Raised above the reach of party favor and political reward, they should occupy a position peculiarly hallowed and wholly consecrated to the needs of humanity, and to the highest service of city and State.

By consent of all parties the Charity Hospital and the State Board of Health should be freed from the pernicious entanglements and haphazard chances of political control. They should be jealously sequestered and protected from every influence alienating from the duties specifically ordained. By legislative provision these institutions should be placed under boards composed of citizens enjoying the highest public esteem and confidence; these should be self-perpetuating, and carefully hedged about by wholesome restrictions looking to the maintenance of their high standard.

To take the initiative and help bring about this consummation so devoutly wished is distinctly within the purview of this Alumni Association.

But let us correct at once and set at rest any possible misapprehension growing out of what has been said touching the administrative affairs of the hospital.

In giving moral support at all times to the Charity Hospital, and vigorous co-operation in matters affecting legislative aid, and in any special interest or endeavor, enlivening the general good will, and directing, whenever possible, the attention of persons with the view of influencing the bestowal of donations, legacies and gifts, the Alumni Association must always, and in all of its efforts, be justly appreciated and understood as disinterested in motive and sincere. Its work is merely the outward show of an inward grace, the outpouring of gratitude in every possible expression of material assistance and personal influence for the welfare of the hospital. Could more be asked or less offered by loyal and affectionate sons?

This association utterly disclaims any intention, present or future, of usurping, dividing or in any manner assuming the

responsibility or prerogatives of the Board of Administrators, just as it scouts the idea of becoming in any sense a State, parish or any other kind of medical society.

On the other hand, the Alumni Association does not propose to part with any reasonable privilege, right or prerogative of its own honest convictions and manhood. It reserves its right to criticism under any and all circumstances involving questions of policy and all else that may seriously concern the integrity and usefulness of the hospital.

There will be no memorial, criticism or utterance of any kind except as a conclusion of mature deliberation, given, as it should be received, in good part.

With such assurances, this association certainly looks forward to the establishment and maintenance of the most cordial relations with the whole administrative authority of the Charity Hospital. We are worthy sons and expect to be received as such.

The very first duty that devolves upon the Alumni Association, as a piece of active work, is to take immediate steps to secure the collection from every available source of data bearing upon the history of the Charity Hospital.

It is a most unfortunate and astounding fact that here we have one of the oldest and grandest monuments of civilization on this continent, growing in the very heart of an enlightened community; a monument that should be covered with legible inscriptions of glorious achievements, and yet scarcely more than a rude trace here and there and a few legends of a historic kind.

If called upon to-morrow to give the line of chief official succession, neither this association, nor the State library, nor the hospital itself, could furnish the names, not to mention contemporary history. Shall this wanton neglect, nay! this ungrateful desecration, as surely destructive as the torch of Caliph Omar to the Alexandrian Library, shall this continue, and consign well nigh to oblivion the future, as has been done the past record of one of the noblest works ever evolved from the better nature of man?

Let your committee on historic restoration and preservation

be the first working committee appointed by the Alumni Association. Let it memorialize the Board of Administrators with an earnest appeal to take immediate steps to recover, if necessary by legal seizure, any and all books, pamphlets, manuscript documents, and any other matter written or printed that has been under any pretext or promise borrowed and persistently withheld from the Sister Superior, the library, the clerk or other source in the Charity Hospital. Let your commission petition that a competent person, a registrar, be authorized by the board to collect documentary and other evidence, and to have the same carefully compiled, arranged and printed, if only to the extent of a few copies to be deposited in the library of the hospital, one volume in the State Library and one in the Howard Library. Let it be further asked that the annual reports may be made as comprehensive as a historic record of a condensed kind could properly be; and that the reports of every five years' accumulation be bound in suitable volumes, to be deposited one each in the libraries above named. Let this committee have all the assistance that each member of the association can give in the discovery and furnishing of historic matter.

It is further respectfully suggested that your committee be instructed to include in its memorial and as a part of the foregoing, the request that a condensed record of notable cases illustrative of methods of diagnosis, of treatment and of hygienic care, together with a statistical review of a few leading inquiries, be gathered from the medical and surgical departments in their respective subdivisions, to be carefully edited and published as a part of the annual report—preferably as an associated volume. The material for this work should be systematically collated by the House and Visiting Staffs with selected Resident Students—for the latter there could be no higher exercise in educational training—the matter to be finally arranged and published under competent supervision.

Such records would presently become of inestimable historic value as a store of knowledge for comparison of past with present periods, and as a standard gauge whereby to measure the

evolution and rate of progress of the science and art of medicine in all of its branches.

The matter of these records should be condensed to the briefest statement of the principles of theory and practice, exemplified in epitomized reports of cases, with photographic illustrations, if possible.

Except in a generalized indication of the lines of action, it would be an exhaustive waste of your patience to attempt here a discussion of the vast subject before us. It requires, we might say, months of study to learn understandingly the exterior of the Charity Hospital, and years of close observation, with exceptional opportunity, to familiarize oneself with the complex detail of its interior economy. We will not attempt it to-night.

Time and circumstance will disclose to your committees the opportunities of the Alumni Association as a faithful auxiliary of the Board of Administrators in all that may promote the welfare of the Charity Hospital. Even now the restoration and the future preservation of historic record is a work of filial duty plainly commanding our attention.

There is no institution in the United States so distinctly monumental as a direct transplantation from European civilization to a colonial settlement as our own Charity Hospital. Harvard University—"for the education of the English and Indian youth of this country in knowledge and godlynes"—is older, but not transplanted, except indirectly as evolved from the learning and liberality of English minds. William and Mary, in Virginia, in 1693, has long since passed away.

The Charity Hospital of Louisiana is the only great civic monument of French and Spanish conquest that has survived the commingled Anglo-Saxon, Celtic and Germanic domination. Wars have raged about it and pestilence around and within it; hurricanes have demolished its buildings twice, and fire has consumed them thrice; its location has been changed six times, and its national government six times; but the Charity Hospital, imbued with a spirit of immortality—for love can not die—has ever grown more vig-

orous in affliction; passing from grace unto perfection in grace through calamity.

Through wars and pestilence, through hurricanes and fires, changes of place and of government, in extremities of poverty and of dire distress, the Charity Hospital has never, for an instant, ceased its mission of mercy in humble obedience to the command "that ye love one another" since that day in 1704 when the seed of this great institution, borne from France by two Sisters of Charity, was planted in the colony of Louisiana.

Suffering long and always kind; envying not; vaunting not itself, and not puffed up; thinking no evil; rejoicing not in iniquity, but rejoicing in truth; bearing all things, hoping all things, enduring all things; itself always an object of living interest; growing with the growth and strengthening with the strength of the civilization crystallizing around this central thread, there stands the Charity Hospital of Louisiana, white in the robe of its own expanding glory, the embodiment of that spiritual excellence which is in Christ.

Well may we love to gaze upon its honored form!  
Aye, standing there, the guarantee of help and health and peace!  
Well might it move communities so blest,  
To loftier feeling and to nobler thoughts—  
The great material symbol of eternal things!

Great institutions, like great nations and great men, are nearly always evolved from unremarked obscurity. Like the Sequoias of our far Western slope, from a shriveled grain, "which, indeed, is one of the least of all seeds," they grow until gigantic, their tops far lifted in the boundless blue, they cast their mighty shadows down, in slanting lines of broadening projection, across the verdant level of the forest roof below, and out upon the undulating plains beyond, in most refreshing shade; and from supernal heights compel the homage that admiration gladly pays to majesty. Moved by its persuasive influence, the humblest beginnings are revealed, and small events are magnified through historic research, in the retroflected light of crescent greatness.

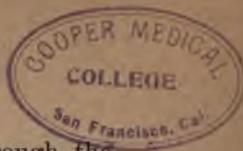
Rarely do we have a continuous and authentic record of these beginnings, but mostly a fragmentary collocation of some fact with abundant legend, fitly joined together by the historian, whose resourceful brain too often fills the hiatus of the unknown with presumptive deductions of what he imagines must or might have been. Like the naturalist Cuvier, from a single bone he reconstructs and clothes again with hide and hair or wool.

But let us take heart, remembering that we are only in the historic infancy of the Charity Hospital, as compared with the ages of its mighty future. Let us be comforted in the assurance that the incompleteness of the account of its early affairs does not mean the loss of historic continuity. Neither rust nor neglect has effaced the markings of the developmental changes of progressive medicine in America, indelibly ground into the historic face of this monument, like the water marks and glacial scratchings—those etchings of geological events—worn and inground upon the face of the sedimentary rocks.

Fortunately there remains an authentic and clearly traced thread of events running back to the inception of the idea of a colonial hospital conceived in France and transplanted and nurtured into existence by the two Sisters of Charity, as mentioned. July 24, 1704, the French warship Pelican, fifty guns, Captain Dueoudray-Guimont, commanding, arrived at Dauphine Island, near Mobile; where a branch settlement from Biloxi had been temporarily established. Along with all this armament of war, and protected by these guns, came the messengers of mercy, the two, "Sœurs Grises."

The history of the Charity Hospital is inseparable from that of yellow fever in the Mississippi Valley and along the contiguous Gulf coast. From the beginning, the record of that foreign contagion runs like a strand of black twisted in a thread of white, a fearful length.

As early as 1701, or only two years after Lemoine d'Iberville had established the settlement at Biloxi, "Sauvolle died August 22, *de la fièvre*, and many of the colonists also succumbed to *la maladie*. In years succeeding time and again the infant colony was swept by a deadly contagion, even then



recognized as of foreign importation, chiefly through the small, overcrowded and filthy ships trading with the West Indies, and also transporting immigrants from Europe via St. Domingo and other ports of the Antilles.

These pestilential prevalences clearly indicate the deadly work of yellow fever from the very beginning of the colonization of our Gulf coast and Louisiana.

In the fall of 1704, there was a raging epidemic in the Louisiana settlement. "In September, Ducoudray-Guimont lost half of his crew, and they had to give him twenty soldiers to help reconduct his ship to France, Le Chevalier Tonti, Le Vasseur, the Jesuit father Dongé, and thirty soldiers of the troops newly arrived, died during this month," says La Harpe. For the fair name of our delightful sanitarium and pleasure resort, our Mississippi Sound and Gulf coast, we demand a diagnosis of this sudden pestilence, for no such deadly contagion is native to these regions. It was yellow fever, brought by Ducoudray, touching at a West India port, or in the packet ship from Vera Cruz, August 10, which brought the news of the death of de Becancourt, who had arrived there from the colony only a few weeks before.

According to a contemporary writer living in the colony, Iberville died of the disease July 6, 1706. The narrative states that "Iberville returned to Havana with eight of his ships, intending to take from there a thousand Spanish soldiers to invade Carolina" (Charleston being the objective point), "but the pestilence that was then raging in the island carried off more than eight hundred of his own men, and also Iberville himself, De Gabaret, captain commanding one of the ships, and many officers of the squadron." As remarkable as it may appear, and a sometime paradox indeed, yellow fever saved a city, and pestilence stayed the ravages of war; but let not gratitude court friendship, lest familiarity breed disastrous contempt. In his "*Histoire de la Louisiane*," *Le Page du Pratz* tells how, at St. Domingo, in 1718, while on his way from France to Dauphine Island, his new friends ashore treated him sumptuously: "*on servait toujours de beaux et bons poissons, et les viandes etaient a la daube*: I returned,

however, for supper and sleep aboard ship every evening, because I was afraid of catching the contagious malady of St. Domingo, seeing that six weeks before our arrival five hundred persons died of an epidemic disease they have named *le mal de Siam*. All such as that causes me to reflect upon the conduct of those who come hunting a fortune in this country (*aux Illes*), while we have other excellent colonies. It is my conclusion that to run such big risks to purchase great happiness, the while suffering so immensely, is always to pay too dearly."

The history of Louisiana, like that of the Atlantic seaboard colonies, is burdened with indubitable evidence of the early importation of yellow fever, for both were in close communication with the same ports of the West Indies, and both were ravaged from their earliest settlement, with an "infectious and pestilential distemper," foreign to either coast. What, may we ask, was to prevent *la Victoire*, *la Duchesse de Noailles et la Marie*," with Le Page du Pratz and eight hundred men, fresh from France, on board, from carrying "*la maladie contagieuse a St Domingo, nommée Mal de Siam*," to the Louisiana settlements? Do we need a pathologist, with scientific terms and a microscope, to tell us the nature of those sudden and appalling pestilential devastations, occurring during the summer and fall seasons, called by the settlers, "*la fievre*," "*la maladie*," "*l'epidemie*," and "*la fievre pernicieuse*, *la fievre hemorrhagique*, malignant bilious fever, and the like, even in our own times. Small-pox, which also appeared early, was always spoken of as small-pox. La Harpe, *who was there*, says that in July, 1720, two men-of-war brought the contagious malady contracted in St. Domingo, to the Louisiana colony, and that many people were carried off with it daily. Again, *writing in New Orleans*, 1724, he says: "In order to understand the excellence of the climate of this province, it is necessary to remark that the air we breathe is healthful, and that the soil is exceedingly fertile. We do not know the nature of those epidemics that desolate the other parts of America, and if there is in this region some frequency of deaths, *elles n'ont été causées que par la maladie con-*

*tractée à Saint-Domingue, and by the misery to which the colonists, have been reduced upon arriving on the coast."* Here we find a conclusive and clearly recorded recognition of the natural salubrity of this region, and of the importation and epidemic range of a malignant contagion from the West Indies, in the earliest times of its colonial settlement. Could historic evidence be more direct?

"In 1739, we read of a great mortality, especially among the troops recently arrived from France." In Pensacola in 1765, the nature of the pestilence there is recognized historically. In New Orleans in 1767, when the disease was attributed to the arrival of the Spanish from Havana, and greatly increased the ill will of the colonists against their new rulers; also in 1769,-96,-99, 1802,-04,-09,-11,-17,-19,-22,-24, and so on, repeatedly, until definitely recognized and voluminously written of, yellow fever became historically "the plague of the Gulf, and New Orleans one of its most famous ambuscades." The lack of historic record accounts for seeming long exemptions. With accumulating preservation of such record we have increasing frequency of pestilential ravage, historically.

The declaration of the New Orleans epidemic of 1796 "imported from the United States," as the first invasion of yellow fever here, rests solely upon a newspaper article appearing apologetically twenty-four years later and devoid of scientific or historic value, because untrustworthy in every particular, certainly no more deserving respect than the "Mal de Siam" idea, the "Bulam fever," or any other fancy of a writer or a popular rumor, such as our Mexican plague, of later years. That no such pestilence was ever heard of in Siam sufficiently exposes the idle fabrication which originated apologetically in the epidemic of Martinique in 1690. In Havana the disease was called the North American plague "because it was brought from New York and Philadelphia."

In no disease or other calamity have ignorance, cunning misrepresentation, bullying effrontry, malevolence, falsehood and cowardice so fearfully combined to display the depravity into which fear and sordid selfishness may plunge an indi-

vidual or a community in the baseness of a lie. The genius of invention has been exhausted in evading the acknowledgment of yellow fever; while death, the penalty, with terror in the lead and destruction following on, treads close upon the crime, invariably.

"On the 23d of November, 1721, the foundation of a hospital, 70 feet long and 26 feet wide, to be built of pine, was laid at Fort St. Louis, Biloxi. In 1723, Jean Baptste Lemoyne de Bienville firmly established the settlement of New Orleans, begun in 1718, completing the transfer from Biloxi. On the 11th of September of the same year the colony was devastated by a hurricane, and among the places noticed as having been destroyed we find named the hospital."

The first mention of a salary for medical aid was in the regulations sent out by the commissaries of the king in 1721, for 800 livres (about \$160) for the surgeon, for one year's service at Biloxi.

"The next important fact we read of in the history of hospital provision for the city is the arrival in 1727 of seven Ursuline nuns, with four servants, whose specified duty it was to take charge of the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, temporarily situated at the corner of Chartres and Bienville streets. This was soon exchanged for a more convenient one connected with the Ursulines Convent, corner of Conde—Chartres—and Ursulines streets, and yet another was soon commenced for them on the square bounded by Chartres, Old Levee, Barracks and Hospital streets. Of this they took possession in 1730." Robin speaks of it as the "Hotel Dieu," and says it was a mixed civil and military hospital.

This became strictly a military hospital, when in 1737, a building for a "Charity Hospital" was bought "under a bequest left by a sailor named Jean Louis, who, having in the service of the East India Company acquired a moderate competency, left at his death 10,000 livres to be devoted to the establishment of a place for the succor of sick and wounded. A house belonging to Madame Koly was purchased for 1200 livres. One part of the balance of the sum bequeathed was employed in procuring the necessary

apparatus and furniture, and the other part was kept in reserve. This hospital was outside the town limits, on the west side of Rampart street, between St. Louis and Toulouse streets.

For lack of time and space we hasten on to the year 1784, when Don Andres Almonaster y Roxas, Chevalier of St. Charles, himself illustrious, and the father of a truly great woman, commenced the erection of a hospital of brick and mortar, on Rampart street, to take the place of the Charity Hospital of Jean Louis, destroyed by a hurricane, 1779. It cost \$114,000, and two years were occupied in building. He appropriated the rents of stores at the corner of St. Peter and Levee streets to its support, constituting an annual revenue of \$1500. He also gave five skilled slaves and furnished the institution throughout. Among other things, he provided twenty-four beds "for persons who shall be neither incurable, nor leprous, but poor and recognized as such. If any others sick, not coming under the denomination of poor; wish to be treated there, they must pay a special sum in order not to trench upon the endowment." For his charitable work the King, Charles IV, of Spain, by a royal *cedula* (decree) declared this institution under his own immediate protection, and appointed Don Almonaster patron for life, with reversion to him direct or collateral, and to his heirs; under the direction of whom it was administrated, until March 9, 1811, when Micaela Leonarda Antonia, his only child (who, a few months later became the celebrated Baroness Pontalba), made a relinquishment of all her rights and privileges to the city of New Orleans. Dr. Blanquet was then the hospital physician. Besides having built the St. Charles Charity Hospital and its chapel, the chapel of the Lazarists, the chapel of the Ursulines Convent, a hospital for lepers and schools for little children, he built the St. Louis Cathedral, laying the foundation in 1792 on the site of the original rude wooden structure erected by the Chevalier de Bienville in 1720, under the invocation of St. Louis, in honor of the titular patron of his military order, Louis IX, destroyed by the hurricane of September 11, 1723, and upon the ruins of its successor, the old brick church built by Bienville in 1724.

and destroyed by fire in 1788. Don Almonaster also built the massive buildings on each side of the Cathedral, now occupied as courts of justice.

The hospital was one of the buildings expressly delivered to the United States in the formal transfer of Louisiana, through the French prefect, Laussat, to the commissioners, December 20, 1803. The building was again destroyed by fire, 1809. By act of the Legislature accepting the property, it was placed under the government of a Council of Administrators, nine in number, of whom the Governor was to appoint six and the City Council three. In 1813 it was enacted that a board of eight should be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

In 1815 the Charity Hospital was rebuilt, this time on Canal street.

The historic status of the hospital in 1823 is chronicled in the City Directory of that year: "The Charity Hospital, situated 147 Canal street, consists of two large buildings, containing one surgical hall, two large fever wards, one dysentery ward, one ward for chronic cases, one for females, one for convalescents, one bathing room, one apothecary store, and a number of other apartments for the families of the resident officers, etc. The hospital has lately undergone a complete repair and reform, and is at this time as clean, wholesome and well conducted as any institution of the kind in the Union. During the last year about 1700 sick persons were admitted, 1200 of whom were discharged well, and the remainder died, one-half which number of yellow fever. The lot on which these buildings stand embraces the whole square between Canal, Common, Baronne and Philippa (now University Place) streets, and is laid off in a garden, poultry yard, etc. The whole appearance of this humane establishment, *at present*, indicates that the physicians and officers are very attentive to their duty. Any person who doubts the correctness of the above remarks need only visit the hospital to be convinced. Dr. John Rollins is the house surgeon and apothecary at this time, who is assisted by physicians of the city, who visit in turn. Sick persons who wish admission must apply to the mayor of the city or any one of the admin-



istrators. The hospital is likewise an asylum for lost children, who will be taken the best care of until reclaimed."

There the Hospital remained until it was sold to the State, and with the proceeds, \$125,000, the administration purchased, at a total cost of \$150,000, the square on which the Charity Hospital now stands, and erected the main or central building. In 1831 the Legislature of Pennsylvania voted a grant of \$10,000, conditioned upon care to its citizens and German patients.

The present Charity Hospital was begun in 1831, and was completed so that the patients were removed into it in the winter of 1833-34.

Sixty-one years ago, January 6, 1834, the present management of the Sisters of Charity was installed in response to an earnest appeal from the Board of Administrators, which began thus:

"CHARITY HOSPITAL,  
"NEW ORLEANS, La., May 6, 1833. }

"Reverend Superior of the Sisters of Charity, St. Joseph's Academy, Emmitsburg, Md.:

"RESPECTED SISTER—The high reputation for humanity and devotion to the indigent which the ladies of the institution over which you preside have acquired, and which has been represented to the Board of Administrators of the Charity Hospital, of this city, has made it desirable to them to obtain a few to whom they may commit the management of the interior economy and police of the institution, and I, as Treasurer, have been directed to address you on the subject." \* \* \* \* \*

The enduring strength, the wonderful achievement and silent dignity of the Charity Hospital are undoubtedly due to the wisdom, the executive efficiency, the unflagging fortitude and the vast moral influence, through their angelic demeanor, exercised by the Sisters of Charity in the administration of its interior economy within their proper domain.

This just tribute is gladly paid, with no diminished appreciation of the personal sacrifice, the noble and enduring work in planning, constructing, providing, regulating and defending, laboriously and conscientiously wrought by the Board of Administrators.

Our tribute falls far short of our intent; for words, however fitly chosen, fail to measure the grateful homage we would pay transcendent virtue, radiant in the image of its Lord. What language can convey the ineffable love and silent adoration of "those multitudes, many and vast, of men, women and infants, by sore griefs assailed, with lamentations and plaints innumerable, all here together come from every clime," seeking to be touched into newness of life through the blessed ministrations of the Sisters of Charity.

This ceaseless stream of confluent misery has numbered in the last six-three years: Admissions, 481,288; discharges, 402,071; deaths, 70,624; mortality, 14 per cent. The unrecorded multitude received prior to 1830 would push these figures far in excess of a half million of patients that have entered the Charity Hospital.

It is not my mission here to eulogize, far less to praise above deserving, but historic truth demands that my testimony shall at least be just. Who can speak of the welfare of the Charity Hospital in times past, and of this grand foundation securely laid by other hands, without telling of those men who bore the brunt and burden, the toil and moil of its construction; its surgeons and physicians; its administrators and visiting staff? Is not the rich garniture of its history inwoven with the lives of those cultivated gentlemen, those splendid intellects and heroic souls, extending in a line of official succession, well authenticated, from the early twenties to the present time? Those grand men who created and have sustained the exalted prestige of the medical profession in this region, some of whom are famous, and all of whom are enshrined in the affections of the people; do not their names and life-work shine from this historic texture like inwrought pictures of gold? Drs. Charles A. Luzenberg, J. M. W. Pieton, A. H. Cenas, Thomas Hunt, Warren Stone, John H. Harrison, John C. P. Wederstrandt, E. H. Barton, Darwin E. Fenner, Armand Mercier, A. J. Wedderburn, Samuel Choppin, D. Warren Brickell, P. C. Boyer, Alfred C. Holt, Samuel M. Bemiss, H. D. Schmitt, Daniel C. Holliday, T. G. Richardson, Samuel Logan, and that newly-mourned

prince among surgeons and physicians, Albert B. Miles. Is there no generous meed for the living, and may they not behold their own footprints in the sands of time? Must mortuary memorials and epitaphs alone proclaim the grateful recognition of good deeds, and fame ne'er sound her trumpet-blast except in ears already sealed with dust? Let historic truth be truth indeed and boldly reveal the undiminished line among the living in a glorious continuity—Charles J. Bickham, Andrew W. Smythe, George K. Pratt, Arthur W. de Roaldes, Ernest S. Lewis, Edward T. Shepard and J. D. Bloom.

A truthful history of the Charity Hospital should contain the memoir of every man whose name has been here given. But how can we, in this brief space, find voice to sound their high deserving, except by a symbol, clothing the tribute of admiration in a trope? How can we speak, except as one who occupies some point of vantage upon the broad plain of daily life, and looking with retrospective gaze upon this line, stretching, like the Sierras, toward the horizon of the past—“He sees the tall, gigantic hills arise in silentness and peace, and, in the long review of distance, range themselves in order grand.”

How can we speak of the historic welfare of the Charity Hospital and fail to dwell upon the name of Warren Stone, the beneficent impress of whose remarkable personality is ineffaceably stamped upon that institution—upon the medical profession—and upon the people of the South.

In all points, as we are in suffering the trials, the temptations and sore tribulations of life, Warren Stone, like King David of old, was always human, and always sublime. By nature cast in a heroic mould, he moved in unconscious ease on the plane of such men as Daniel Webster and Robert E. Lee; denied only by his profession from the conspicuous achievements of the Senate and of war. Drawn by a pervasive magnetism, students and people crowded about him in wonder and delight. “Every visit to the hospital was an ovation to him,” says Dr. Miles in his “Memorial Address on Dr. Warren Stone.” I myself remember well that to get near him on those daily occasions was a happy chance. The

poor, the stricken and the distressed he had always with him, for he fed them, he healed and comforted them. In character, as in body, he was positive and strong. Quick in perception and prompt in execution, his intuitions soared into genius. As a surgeon he possessed what the elder Chassaignac has called the consciousness of traumatism. To the arrogant he was austere, to the tyrant bold and unconquerable; to a feeble child and an humble, suffering woman, he was the great physician—yea, more! a tender father, a sympathetic friend, whose outstretched hand was ever filled with proffered help. To talk of him is to forget all else, so pleasant is the theme.

But there he stands in that Sierra, sharply outlined and towering high; his massive front capped with frosted locks—like a snow-crowned peak, resting in the grand repose of far-away magnificence—the great Warren Stone!

Behold that Monarch Mountain, where it stands  
 Imperial midst the lesser heights, and, like  
 Some mighty, unimpassioned mind, companionless  
 And cold. The storms of heaven may beat in wrath  
 Against it, but it stands in unpolluted  
 Grandeur still, and from the rolling mists upheaves  
 Its towers of pride e'en purer than before.  
 The wintry showers and white-winged tempests leave  
 Their frozen tributes on his brow, and he  
 Hath made of them an everlasting crown.  
 Thus doth he, day by day, and age by age,  
 Defy each stroke of time, still raising highest into heaven!

Living within the radius of that lone, vast reflector, itself all light, and in full view of those associated, “tall, gigantic hills”—let us assume the humility of true worth. Let us not arrogate superior wisdom or intellectual pre-eminence because of the startling discoveries and brilliant achievements of to-day; nor set them in conspicuous contrast with the errors of theory and the imperfections in practice of those, our ancestors, who perfected the way to our success and made our glory possible.

Within the last fifteen years the Charity Hospital has changed from the old to the new, from the dispensation of laudable pus to the dispensation of the germ theory, so com-

pletely as to constitute a revolution in management, construction and appliance. The change, already radical, moves with accelerating pace toward ideals of perfection, here gathered and cast upon this screen like focused rays of light, reproducing in fidelity of color and of action the image of all the thought, of all the experimental effort and inventive genius of the enlightened world.

But why has not this change occurred long before? Because every modification and addition, every thought and suggestion of improvement, every conception of an ideal institution has been projected along hygienic lines established by the recent science of bacteriology, with its revised notions of pathology, and the outgrowing principles and practice of aseptic and antiseptic procedure.

This alone has compelled the change in general theory and practice, and therefore in medical education, in hospital construction, provision and management.

But for the revolutionary and compulsory influences of bacteriology the medical profession and the Charity Hospital would be to-day where they were forty years ago, and would indefinitely have remained.

No one was more closely identified with this transition than Dr. A. B. Miles, whose modest appreciation of his own great ability was in striking contrast with the exalted esteem entertained for him by others. The direction of his own inclinations were never more strongly exhibited than in his admiration of Dr. Warren Stone, toward whom he was drawn by the affinities of greatness. The "Memorial Address" on Dr. Warren Stone," read by Dr. W. E. Parker before the Southern Surgical and Gynecological Association, at Charleston, S. C., November 14, 1894, was his last written article.

No one looked forward to the establishment of this Alumni Association with greater hope than he; for no one was so instrumental in infusing life and giving form and strength to this new creation. But neither love nor duty could hold in fleshly bondage the soul of Albert B. Miles—

When it would rend, O, Earth, thy prison bars,  
 And scale thy confines with the wings of light,  
 For thus his thoughts impatient walked the stars  
 That gleam like souls through Thy environed night.

Across Thy grand infinities, o'er seas  
 Dowered with the splendors of Thy heretofores,  
 His soul has soar'd on wing'd ecstacies  
 To the beyond, where thought so grandly soars.

Yes! Where Thy realities are the unseen;  
 Where life is truth, and the departed dwell  
 In mansions rising through the blue serene,  
 Not built with hands, and each joy's citadel.

Father! Amid Thy throned eternities,  
 His heart now hymns its gratitude to Thee—  
 Not here amid these worlds, nor such as these,  
 Glory can dwell alone, where souls are free.

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Historical works referring to the subject of this address: "Histoire de la Louisiane," par M. Le Page du Pratz, a Paris, 1758, in three volumes, with maps and illustrations; "Memoir Historique," par C. C. Robin, Paris, 1807; "New Orleans Directory and Register, With Notes on New Orleans," by John Adams Paxton, 1823; "Rapport de la Commission sur les Lazarets et les Quarantine," Bordeaux, 1839; "History of Louisiana," by E. Bunner, 1843; "The History of Louisiana," by Francis Xavier Martin; "History of Louisiana," by Charles Gayarré; "Historical Sketch of the Charity Hospital of New Orleans," by James Burns, M. D.; "Historical Sketch Book and Guide to New Orleans, Exposition Edition," "The New Orleans Medical Journal," 1844-45; "Sketches from the History of Yellow Fever, Disproving its Domestic Origin and Demonstrating its Transmissibility," by W. M. Carpenter, A. M., M. D., New Orleans, 1844; "The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal," 1845-67; "The New Orleans Medical News and Hospital Gazette," 1854-61; Report of the Sanitary Commission of New Orleans, etc., 1855, by E. H. Barton, M. D., consulted in Howard Memorial Library: "Annuaire Louisianais," par B. Lafon, New Orleans, 1808; "Journal Historique de L'Etablissement des Français a la Louisiane," par Bernard de La Harpe; "Histoire de Longueil," par Alix, Jodin.

(Reverse side of Menu Card.)

## Charity Hospital of Louisiana Alumni Association

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APRIL 16TH, 1895.

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